

- Ahaziah slain by arrows of Jehu
- Pharaoh Necho slew King Josiah
- Saracens, Christian crusaders, Egyptians, Persians, Druses, Turks, Arabs, et al.
- Napoleon's disastrous march from Egypt to Syria

- 17] And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.
- 18] And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great.

"The air": The last sphere of Satan's influence. "Prince of the power of the Air" (Eph 2:2); "high places" (Eph 6:12) = "heavenlies" (Eph 1:20; 3:10).

"It is finished" vs. "It is done." (*Tetelestai* = "paid in full.")

"Temple": The last reference. Mentioned 6X with the bowls of wrath.

"Earthquake": Isa 29:6; Ps 50:3,4; Zech 14:4; 13:9; Hag 2:6,7.

- 19] And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.
- 20] And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Cf. Rev 11:13; Zech 14:4; Ezek 47; Zech 13:8,9. "Babylon" mentioned in Rev 14:8. Ch. 17 & 18 coming. God made the country; man made the cities. The corruption, the graft, the buying and selling of justice, the deification of money, the exaltation of lust, the exploitation of the masses in their lightless and vapid lives.... Verse 20 cf. Hag 2:6,7; Jer 4:23-27.

- 21] And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Hail: Job 38:22,23; Jer 4:23-27. Greek talent = 86 lbs. Hebrew talent (silver) = 110 lbs. Troy; 96 avoirdupois; other, 135 lbs. Babylonian talent: heavier... Attic, 57.7 lbs. (Cf. Beth-Horon, Josh 10:11.)

Josephus: Roman catapults threw stones the weight of a talent into Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when Titus leveled the city. **Penalty for blasphemy: stoning!** [Hail also accompanies nuclear effects...] Note: These judgments are not the "blessed hope": "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Many are trying to reduce the population of the earth; it seems more appropriate to reduce the population of hell! Judgment cannot produce repentance; it was never intended to. God changes hearts through His grace and mercy. This book was sent to the seven churches: *It was given to us in order to change our lives right now!*

Next Session

Babylon: read Chapters 17 & 18. Also Isaiah 13 & 14; Jeremiah 50 & 51.

The Book of Revelation Session 21: The Mystery of Babylon Revelation Chapters 17-18

And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 10:8-10

Global Dictator

Nimrod: Hebrew, *marad*, "to rebel"; future tense, "we will rebel." The final global dictator will be an Assyrian: ("Nimrod II"?) Micah 5:5,6; Isaiah 10.

Spiritual Babylon

All forms of occultic practices have had their origins in the original city of Babylon (Isaiah 47). Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God, and worshipped following the winter solstice: ~ Dec 22-23. As Babylon was conquered by subsequent empires, this entire religious system was transplanted, first to Pergamos (Rev 2:12-17) and then to Rome.

As Christianity was established as the official state religion of Rome, many of the religious traditions and practices of the earlier pagan worship were adapted and incorporated, including many of our traditions surrounding Christmas. The Babylonian worship of Ishtar, the Golden Egg of Astarte, and the fertility rites of spring give us Easter, and the calendar year-end on October 31, and its associated occultic rituals, gave us our Halloween. This was related to worship of Baal (Mars) and

may have been stimulated by the perturbations of the orbit of the earth associated with the planet Mars.

The Two Women

	Israel Chapter 12	Woman riding Beast Chapter 17
Where?	In Heaven	Upon many waters
Mother	Of Man-Child	Of Harlots
Clothed with	With sun	Purple, Scarlet , Gold
Identity	Sun, Moon, Stars	Reigns over Kings of the Earth
Enemy	Dragon	10 Kings (Ultimately)
Relationship	Hated by world	Caressed by world
Sustained by	Wings of heaven	Dragon
Headdress	Crown of 12 stars	Mystery Babylon the Great
Status	Widowed, divorced	“Am no widow...”
Final location	New Jerusalem	Habitation of demons

Mystery Babylon: Revelation 17 & 18

- **The Great Whore** **Ch. 17**
 - Rides the Beast with 7 heads, 10 horns
 - Mother of Harlots and Abominations
 - Drunk with the blood of the saints
- **Babylon the Great (City)** **Ch. 18**
 - Kings
 - Merchants
 - Those that trade by sea

There are those who believe the Church will go through the Tribulation. In a way, they are right. There is a church that will: Thyatira is promised in Rev 2:22. This woman receives more attention than any other symbol in the book. She is surrounded by more identifying clues than any other symbol in the book.

Babylon is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible and is even alluded to three times in Christ’s genealogy. It was the capital of the 1st World Dictator and will be also the capital of the last World Dictator. Babylon is a “Litmus Test” for the literal view of Scripture...

The Great Whore: Revelation 17

- 1] And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:
- 2] With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.
- 3] So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

World System: Christ does *not* pray for the world (Jn 17:9; 15:18,19). Harlotry = false devotion, flatteries (Jer 3:6, 8, 9; Ezek 16:32; Hos 1:2; Rev 2:22); feigned love, pretended affection, intimacy for favors. [Called a “harlot” four times in this chapter. Called a great “city” eight times.] Also, Jerusalem was called a harlot (Isa 1:21); Tyre was a harlot (Isa 23:16-17); as was Nineveh (Nah 3:4).

“Waters”: see v.15.

Lenin was correct: religion *is* the opiate of the people: “drunk with wine.” The control of the state by “religion” is one of the most dangerous trends in view. The enforced paganism in our government and our schools is frightening—and just the beginning.

- 4] And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Purple was the predominant color of Roman imperialism; every senator and consul wore a purple stripe as a badge of his position; the emperor’s robes were purple. Scarlet is the color adopted by Roman Catholicism. “Golden cup” (cf. Jer 51:7). “Abominations” = idolatry (Isa 44:19); high places (2 Kgs 23:13). The Church was not meant to rule until her rejected Lord returns in power. (Blasphemy includes any doctrine that attempts to add to what God has completed: Salvation by works denies God’s glory = blasphemy.)

- 5] And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

musterion = secret revealed. Mystery Babylon vs. Mystery of the “True Church” (Eph 3:1-9). Mother of harlots (note the plural: a brothel!) Thus, also, Mother of Protestants? Ecclesiasticism leads to idolatry (Rev 18:7) “am no widow”?

- 6] And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.
- 7] And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Drunk with blood of saints. (Why did John “wonder”? It would have been no surprise if *pagan* Rome should persecute believers. The love of a harlot is a feigned love; a pretended affection to gain favors.)

- 8] The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Out of the pit (*aboussso*) is not simply a “revival” of an earthly empire: it is supernatural (Rev 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 20:1, 3). Be not ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor 2:11). Seed of serpent (Gen 3:15); Serpent = Satan (Rev 12:9); Man-child = Christ (Gal 3:16). Brood of serpent: “Generation of vipers” (Mt 12:34). Not Gentiles; children of wrath, disobedience (Eph 2:2, 3); children of Satan (Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 4:1-3).

- 9] And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.
- 10] And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.
- 11] And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

“...seven mountains”: Mountains = governments in prophecy (Dan 2:25,44 et al.). Horace wrote, “The gods, who look with favor on the seven hills...” Ovid: “But Rome looks around on the whole globe from her seven mountains, the seat of empire and abode of the gods.” Augustine wrote, “Babylon is a former Rome, and Rome is a later Babylon.” [Even Peter is regarded by some as using Babylon as a “code name” for Rome (1 Pet 5:13), although we take it as literal: Babylon became a Jewish center; the Babylonian Talmud is the authoritative one over the Jerusalem Talmud (which was written in Tiberias).]

Satan’s Seven Super-Kingdoms

- Egypt
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Persia
- Greece

And there are **seven** kings: **five** are fallen, and **one is**, and the other is **not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

- Rome
- RomeII

10 Horns

- 12] And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
- 13] These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Speculations are futile: *they have no kingdom as yet!* Cf. Daniel 7:7.

- 14] These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.
- 15] And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.
- 16] And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Here the “waters” are interpreted for you. Isaiah 8:7, et al.

Kings eventually destroy the harlot. The harlot is not the beast: it rides, but then is destroyed by, the beast. Cf. Dave Hunt, *The Woman Rides the Beast*.

- 17] For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.
- 18] And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The great city—Rome then; could *be relocated* to the plain of Shinar (7X = literal Babylon). Rome existed in John’s day.

Revelation 17: Review

Notice that the prostitute *is not the beast*, but *rides* the beast. She initially exploits the beast, but is eventually destroyed by him (Rev 17:16,17). The reference to the “golden cup” is another link with Jeremiah, et al. Mystery Babylon as a false religious system has been identified with the city of Rome from the early centuries until this present hour.

Ten Clues

- 1) A prostitute. Ultimate in promiscuous, unfaithful behavior; depicts unfaithfulness to God on the part of someone who claims to honor God.
- 2) Has universal influence; all over the world.

- 3) She is seated upon (steers, dominates) the beast.
- 4) Purple, Scarlet, Gold, and Jewels. She is conspicuously wealthy and expensively adorned; outwardly attractive.
- 5) Golden cup: precious, shining, pleasant to behold; ostensibly, a utensil in God's service; yet a counterfeit, filled with abominable things.
- 6) Mystery, Babylon the Great. A mystery, linked with Babylon of Nimrod. Cf. Rev 11:8, as an idiom.
- 7) Mother of Prostitutes: has spiritual offspring. Not alone.
- 8) Persecutor of Christians (true believers). In fact, revels in their blood. (Cf. Dave Hunt.)
- 9) Seven Hills. Rome built on seven hills: Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, latine, Quirinal, and Viminal.
- 10) The Great City that rules over the kings of the earth. In John's day, could only be Rome.

Today: status of a separate, sovereign nation within the City of Rome: the Vatican. It has its own diplomatic embassies in the major capitals of the world. Its history of atrocities upon believers is unparalleled in history. [Dave Hunt, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Harvest House, 1994, is a must-read for any serious student of this issue.]

Revelation 18: Babylon the Great (The City)

Sea port, destroyed by *God* (Rev 18:8-10,19,21) vs. City of seven hills, destroyed by *political beast* (Rev 17:16). Note: Alexander had planned to create a harbor for 1,000 ships...

Babylon of Chapter 17 = Babylon of Chapter 18: The usage of the word "Babylon" is never used of the beast or its heads (17:5, 18). Cf. the context before and after Revelation 18 (cf. 16:19; 17:1, 18; 18:2-3; 19:2) and the statements of Revelation 18:3, 24 with 6:9-11.

- 1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.
- 2] And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Meta tauta: after what things?

"...is fallen, is fallen": Isa 21:9; Rev 14:8. **Sevenfold call**: Isa 48:20; 52:11; Jer 50:8,9; 51:6,8; Zech 2:6,7; 2 Cor 6:17,18; Rev 18:4.

Repository of demons and unclean birds? Birds are associated with Satan in Mt 12:31-32. [Incarcerated during the Millennium?] Alien conjectures; cf. Isa 13:19-22; Jer 50:38-40.

- 3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
- 4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.
- 5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Remember, 144,000 all made it; none were lost. Remember also, the shepherd didn't end up with just 99... cf. Deut 4:30-31; Jer 51:5-6, 45; Isa 48:20. Separation commanded (Rom 16:17-18; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1).

- 6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.
- 7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

"I am no widow...": Strange boast! Cf. Israel, the widow of YHWH. Widow, non-virgin, unacceptable bride of priest (Lev 22:13). Jerusalem referred to as a "widow" (Lam 1:1; cf. Isa 47)

- 8] Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.
- 9] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,
- 10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

Note three groups of people singled out: **kings, merchants, and those who trade by sea...**

- 11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:
- 12] The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,
- 13] And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.
- 14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things

which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

28 (4 x 7) cargoes: literal, not symbolic. They are listed!

“slaves”: In Rome, 1/3 population were slaves; 10,000 traded per day in the Empire; over 50 million estimated. Do we have slaves today? What about economic slavery? 60% in taxes; economic bondage to corporations, luxury, etc., unable to break loose from the “system.”

- 15] The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,
- 16] And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!
- 17] For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,
- 18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What *city is* like unto this great city!
- 19] And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.
- 20] Rejoice over her, *thou* heaven, and *ye* holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

This is the first time in this book the command to rejoice is given! Jer 51:56; 59-64. [What do *you* rejoice over? What is your heart fixed on today?]

- 21] And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.
- 22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft *he be*, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Factories close. Lights are off. It's all over.

- 23] And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.
- 24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Cf. Rev 17:6; Mt 23:35.

The Origin of Babylon

Nimrod built the famous Tower of Babel as the centerpiece of his rebellion against God. God disrupted this rebellious coalition through the “confusion of tongues” in Genesis 11. This rebellion against God is still with us. The residuals from Babylon include most of the traditions of idol

worship, astrology, and the occult that continue to the present day. The original Biblical significance of the zodiac (or “Mazzeroth”) was corrupted by the Babylonian religious system and continues in all cultures to this day.

The Conquest of Babylon

On October 12, 539 BC, Cyrus' general captured Babylon without a battle. The Persians diverted the River Euphrates into a canal upriver so that the water level dropped “to the height of the middle of a man's thigh,” which rendered the flood defenses useless and enabled the invaders to march through the river bed to enter by night. [Herodotus]

The Handwriting on the Wall

יִשְׁתַּ יִשְׁתַּ אֲדָכּ וּנְח
מִנָּא מִנָּא תְקֵל פֶּרֶס

M^en^e : Numbered, Reckoned.
"God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it."
Your number is up.

T^ek^el : Weighed.
"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

P^eres : Broken, Divided.
"Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes
and the Persians."

(**Paras** is also the word for Persians.)

The Letter to Cyrus

Cyrus was able to boast that the conquest was almost bloodless with no significant damage to the city. Daniel lived at least until the third year of Cyrus) presented Cyrus with the writings of Isaiah, which contained a personal letter *addressing him by name*. [Josephus, *Antiquities*, XI, I, 2.] *Isaiah had died 150 years before Cyrus was born!*

That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Isaiah 44:27-28

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

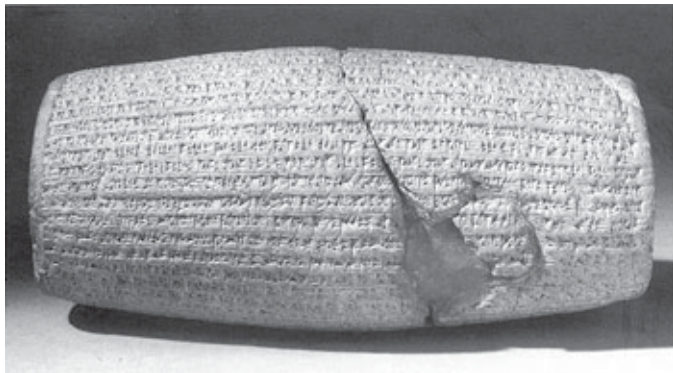
Isaiah 45:1-5

Cyrus' Response

Cyrus was duly impressed. He freed the captives and returned the vessels that had been plundered from the Temple 70 years earlier. He even gave them incentives to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple (2 Chr 36:22; Ezra 1:1-4). Only about 50,000 Jews responded to this royal proclamation and returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel.

The Cylinder of Cyrus

This cylinder, discovered by Hormuzd Rassam in the 19th century, can presently be seen in the British Museum in London.



"...without any battle, he entered the town, sparing any calamity; ... I returned to sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time... and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations."

British Museum, London

Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, "The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem."

Ezra 1:2-3

The Decline

Cyrus claimed the title "King of Babylon." He made his son Cambyses as his viceroy in Babylon in 538 B.C. Things remained peaceful until his death in 522 B.C.

In the reign of Darius II (521-486 B.C.) a further return of exiles to Jerusalem was allowed. His rule did not go unchallenged and several local Babylonians controlled the city for varying periods, usually taking the throne-name of "Nebuchadnezzar" to bolster their claims—Nidintu-Bel (Nebuchadnezzar III) 522 B.C. and Araka ("Nebuchadnezzar IV") 521 B.C.

In the fourth year of Xerxes (485-465 B.C.) the Babylonians made another attempt to gain their independence. Bel-shimanni and Shamash-eriba claimed the throne in 482 B.C. and this revolt was suppressed with much cruelty and damage to Babylon. On his visit in 460 B.C., Herodotus reported that the city was virtually intact, however.

Xerxes and his successors (Artaxerxes I - Darius III, 464-332 B.C.) had little to spare for Babylon amid their lengthy and expensive wars with Greece. Irrigation work was neglected and the diversion of trade to the main Persian road from Sardis to Susa aided the decline of the city's influence.

The Rise of Greece

On October 1, 331 B.C. Alexander (III, "the Great") was welcomed by the Babylonians when he entered the city after his victory over the Medes at Gaugamela. He was acclaimed king and on his return from the east nine years later he planned extensive renovations including the creation of a port for the city large enough for 1000 warships.

Though the site of Esagila was cleared, work ceased on Alexander's ambitious plans at his death in Babylon on June 13, 323 B.C. The career of Alexander is detailed in Daniel 8. His successors, in Daniel 11. Alexander died at age of 32; the Greek Empire took 22 years to divide. The "silent years" (between the testaments) is profiled in advance in Dan 11:5-35.

The Greek Empire

Alexander is succeeded by his four generals:

- **Cassander** Macedonia & Greece
- **Lysimachus** Thrace, Bithynia, most of Asia Minor
- **Ptolemy** Egypt, Cyrene, Arabia
Sponsored the Septuagint Translation: LXX (270 B.C.)
- **Seleucus** Syria and East to India
Antiochus Epiphanes (The "Little Horn" of Dan 8)

Atrophy & Decay

The foundation of a new rival capital city, Selucia, on the River Tigris expedited the decline of the ancient metropolis. The dispersal of Jews from Babylon is reported by Josephus (*Antiq.* XVIII, ix 6-9).

The city subsequently underwent a gradual decay, even though the ruins remained occupied. Documents on clay from a school for priests in the city continued at least until A.D. 100.

Early in the first century A.D. a colony of merchants from Palmyra brought brief prosperity, but they left about A.D. 75 (Garner, p 7-8).

The city was visited by Trajan in A.D. 115. Babylon was first reported deserted by Septimus Severus 84 years later.

As recently as the 1800s the village of Hillah, containing over 10,000 inhabitants, stood on the site of ancient Babylon (Rich, p. 157).

In the late nineteenth century, the German archeologist Robert Koldewey conducted extensive studies at Babylon and the four Arab villages situated on the site. Babylon had been inhabited for some time even before his arrival.

The great prophecies concerning the city of Babylon in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 and Jeremiah 50 and 51 *have never been fulfilled*. In Isaiah 13 and 14, the destruction of Babylon is predicted. In vigorous terms, Isaiah describes how Babylon will be destroyed and then will *never again be*

inhabited. This identifies the *time* of the destruction as that particular period known as the "Day of The Lord" that is mentioned throughout the scripture and is associated with the final day of God's vengeance. (Joel 2:10; Mal 4:5; Dan 12:1; Matt 24:21-22.) When God destroys Babylon, he will destroy all the evil in the world.

The Doom of Babylon

- **Fall of Babylon in 539 BC**
 - Without a battle
 - Became Alexander's capital
 - Atrophied over the centuries
 - Presently being rebuilt
- **Destruction of Babylon (Isaiah 13, 14; Jeremiah 50, 51)**
 - "Never to be inhabited"
 - "Building materials never reused"
 - "Like Sodom and Gomorrah"
- "Mystery Babylon?" (Revelation 17-18)

Destruction of Babylon

	Isaiah		Jeremiah		Revelation	
	13	14	50	51	17	18
Many Nations Attacking	4, 5	2, 26	2, 9 41, 46	7	16	
Israel in the Land, Forgiven		1	4, 20			
Like Sodom & Gomorrah	19		40			
Never to be inhabited Bricks never reused	20	23	13, 26 39	26, 29 37		
During "Day of the Lord"	6, 10 11, 13		25		Ⓜ	Ⓜ
Literal (Chaldean) Babylon	19	22	50	4, 24 63		
King's fornication Drunk with wine				7	2	3, 9
Scarlet, purple Golden Cup				7	3, 4	6, 16

Isaiah 13

- 1] The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.
- 2] Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.
- 3] I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, *even* them that rejoice in my highness.

- 4] The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle.
- 5] They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, *even* the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.
- 6] Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.
- 7] Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:
- 8] And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces *shall be as* flames.
- 9] Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.
- 10] For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

This exact imagery is used in Revelation 6 to describe the judgment of the Tribulation just before the Second Coming.

- 11] And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
- 12] I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

This startling idea parallels Matthew 24:21-22. We can't say that the world's population has been on the brink of annihilation before.

- 13] Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.
- 14] And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.

This clearly is yet future.

- 15] Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined *unto them* shall fall by the sword.
- 16] Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.
- 17] Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and *as for* gold, they shall not delight in it.

This reference to the Medes is one of the reasons why many have viewed this as referring to the events of 539 B.C. However, nothing prohibits the Medes from being involved in the future. The Medes were a people who occupied the mountainous area of northwestern Iran and northeastern

Iraq, presently occupied by the Kurds today. They have been fighting Turkey, Iran, and Iraq in an attempt to establish their own independent country of Kurdistan. Hundreds of Kurdish women and children were the victims of Saddam Hussein's poison gas attacks in 1987 and 1988 and the hatred by the Medes for the Babylonians runs deep.

- 18] *Their* bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.
- 19] And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

"The glory of the Babylonians' pride": not Rome, nor allegorical: literally, the Chaldeans' pride. Overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah, that is, with "fire from heaven." This has yet to happen to Babylon.

- 20] It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

After the Fall of Babylon under the Persians, it was inhabited, even by Alexander and subsequently, even into the current period.

- 21] But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.
- 22] And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in *their* pleasant palaces: and her time *is* near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

Isaiah 14

- 1] For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.

It is also important to note that this judgment on Babylon will take place at a time when Israel is resettled **in their own land** from many nations. This cannot be applied to the fall of Babylon to the Persians, during which Israel was still in captivity and in exile from the land.

- 2] And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.
- 28] In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.
- 29] Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is

broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit *shall be* a fiery flying serpent.

- 30] And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.
- 31] Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, *art* dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none *shall be* alone in his appointed times.
- 32] What shall *one* then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.

Jeremiah 50

- 1] The word that the LORD spake against Babylon *and* against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.
- 2] Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, *and* conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.
- 3] For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.
- 4] In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

Does the “nation from the north” refer to Magog or the Russians? And again, the spiritual position of Israel is described.

- 9] For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows *shall be* as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

“Arrow”: קֶרֶב *khayts*

- literally, shot from engine of war; or shot from a bow by hand;
- LXX: βολίς (noun nominative feminine singular common): a missile; or anything thrown, such as an *arrow* or *javelin*; “as of a mighty expert.”

“As of a Mighty Expert”: סָכַל *sakal*

- to be prudent, be circumspect, wisely understand, prosper;
- Hiphil participle masculine singular absolute: to have insight; to give attention to, consider, ponder, be prudent; have comprehension;
- LLX: συνετός intelligent, possessing understanding.
- NAS: “Their arrows will be like an expert warrior who does not return

empty-handed.”

- NIV: “Their arrows will be like skilled warriors who do not return empty-handed.”
- *The intelligence is in the arrow; they can't miss!*
– i.e., “*smart weapons*”: *missiles, bombs, etc.*

- 13] Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.
- 14] Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD.
- 19] And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.
- 20] In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

The repeated references to the forgiveness of Israel imply a time that is after the New Testament period alluded to in Romans 11:25. It certainly cannot be applied to Israel at the time of her return from the Babylonian captivity (Zech 12:10; 13:1).

- 24] I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD.
- 25] The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this *is* the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.
- 39] Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell *there*, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.
- 40] As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; *so* shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

A repeated comparison to the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, which has never yet happened to Babylon.

- 41] Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.
- 42] They shall hold the bow and the lance: they *are* cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, *every one* put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.

A multinational force, not just the Persians.

Jeremiah 51

- 5] For Israel *hath* not *been* forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the LORD of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.
- 6] Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this *is* the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense.
- 7] Babylon *hath been* a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.
- 8] Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

A reading of the language clearly links this with Revelation 17 and 18.

- 23] I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.
- 24] And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.
- 25] Behold, I *am* against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.
- 26] And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

Again, a reference to the non-reuse of remaining materials. When Robert Koldewey arrived in Babylon in the late 1800s, he found entire sections of the old city being mined for bricks. (Kodewey, p. 168.)

- 27] Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.
- 28] Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.
- 29] And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.
- 30] The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in *their* holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.
- 33] For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon *is* like a threshingfloor, *it is* time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come.
- 34] Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon, he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out.

- 37] And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.
- 38] They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.
- 39] In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.
- 40] I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats.
- 41] How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!
- 42] The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.
- 43] Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth *any* son of man pass thereby.
- 44] And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

The Woman in the Ephah: Zechariah 5:5-11

- Ephah containing a Woman called “Wickedness.” She is sealed in with a talent of lead
- Carried by two women with wings of a stork between the earth and heaven... “*To build it a house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.*”

The strange vision in Zechariah 5 suggests that there will be an appropriate time when the commercial and religious power center of the Planet Earth will, once again, migrate *back to its original site* of the literal city of Babylon. Note that the “*ephah*” and the “*talent*” were the standard commercial measures of volume and weight, respectively. The two carriers had the “*wings of a stork*” which is an unclean bird. The captive woman called “*wickedness*” may be a reference to the harlot of Revelation 17 and 18. The broadly overlooked possibility is that there will yet be a global power shift from Rome to Babylon—to where it all began and where it will finally be judged.

- 5] Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.
- 6] And I said, What is it? And he said, This is the ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their appearance in all the land
- 7] (and, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead); and this is a woman sitting in the midst of the ephah.
- 8] And he said, This is Wickedness: and he cast her down into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.
- 9] Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came forth two women, and the wind was in their wings; now they had wings like the wings of a stork; and they lifted up the ephah between earth and heaven.

- 10] Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?
 11] And he said unto me, To build her a house in the land of Shinar: and when it is prepared, she shall be set there in her own place.

The “Fifth Horseman”: Revelation 19:11-16

- 11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
 12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
 13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Not *His* blood: of His enemies: Isaiah 63...

- 14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
 15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth
 16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Next Session

Read Chapter 19. Review your notes on the ancient Jewish Wedding.

The Book of Revelation Session 22: Return of the King Revelation Chapter 19

The Restrainer

The Restrainer may be “restraining” far more than we have any idea! There will be strange things unleashed—some may already have begun, but are restrained until the Body of Christ has been removed from the scene...

Synopsis of Final Section

- Chapter 17 Mystery Babylon
- Chapter 18 Mystery Babylon
- Chapter 19 The Return of the King**
- Chapter 20 The Millennium
- Chapter 21 Eternity
- Chapter 22 Conclusion

Revelation 19: The Return of the King

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:31-33

Do we take this promise seriously? The throne of David did not exist then. And it hasn't since. Has this promise been fulfilled yet? Will it be fulfilled in the future? What does it really mean?

God's Promise

- The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:11-16).
- God promised David a royal dynasty (Isa 7:13).
- An eternal throne (2 Sam 7:13, 16, 19; 1 Chr 17:12; 22:10; Isa 55:3; Ezek 37:25).
- A political kingdom (Gen 17:2-8).
- It was even confirmed by oath (Ps 132:11; 89:3, 4, 34).
- This cannot be applied to the Church (Ezek 37:21-28).
- It was this future throne that was recognized by the First Church Council in Acts 15 (Acts 15:16-18, quoting Amos 9:11-12. Cf. Jer 30:7, 11, 18).

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Jude 1:14,15

The oldest prophecy uttered by a prophet: *before the Flood of Noah!*

- 1] And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Meta tauta: (4X) 4:1, 7:1, 18:1; 19:1. “After the Church things...”
Alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew *Hallelujah*: (4X) only occurrences in NT are here in Revelation = “Praise Yahweh.” It occurs 24X in Psalms (Ps 146-150). First use: 1 Chr 16:4 (Hebrew) to celebrate the ark of God in the midst of Zion. Sung for three reasons: God has judged His enemies (19:1-4); God is reigning (19:5-6); The Bride is ready (19:7-10). Rom 8:18-23!